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Effect of auditory stimulation during early development in puppy testing of future police working dogs

J. C. Alves^{1,2,*}, A. Santos¹, B. Lopes³, P. Jorge¹

¹Divisão de Medicina Veterinária, Guarda Nacional Republicana. Rua Presidente Arriaga 9, 1200-771 Lisbon, Portugal.

²ICAAM – Instituto de Ciências Agrárias e Ambientais Mediterrâneas – Universidade de Évora, Núcleo da Mitra 7006-554 Évora, Portugal

³Grupo de Intervenção Cinotécnico, Unidade de Intervenção, Guarda Nacional Republicana. Rua Regimento Engenharia 1, 1675- 161 Pontinha, Portugal.

*Corresponding author: alves.jca@gnr.pt

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study was to determine if the use of auditory stimulation during early development stages of young puppies, using a variety of sounds such as music, radio talk shows and ambient noise, that included car noises, sirens and gunshots, could affect the results of early puppy testing of future police working dogs.

Sixty-seven puppies at 7 weeks of age were submitted to a 9-situation test and their results analysed. The sample comprised 34 males and 33 females, from 4 different breeds/crosses (27 German Shepherd Dog – GSD, 19 Belgian Malinois Shepherd Dog – BMSD, 7 Dutch Shepherd Dog – DSD and 14 animals of a cross of GSD with BMSD), representing 12 litters. Puppies were divided in two groups, G1 (n=46) and G2 (n=21),

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